

United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

4700 River Road Riverdale, MD 20737

Animal Identification: Send Us Your Comments

On July 9, 2004, USDA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced that they were publishing an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) in the *Federal Register*. The ANPRM will allow interested parties the opportunity to comment on several actions the federal government is considering. Among other things, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is inviting comments on when and under what circumstances the national animal identification system (NAIS) should move from being voluntary to mandatory, and which species should be covered now and over the long term.

A full copy of the ANPRM is available through the Federal Register Web site at http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html. It is titled "Federal Measures to Mitigate BSE Risks: Considerations for Further Action." The notice was published on July 14, 2004, and APHIS will consider all comments received on or before September 13, 2004. If you would like to submit a comment about the NAIS, you may do so using any of the following methods:

- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to Docket No. 04-047-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 04-047-1.
- E-mail: Address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 04-047-1" on the subject line.
- Agency Web Site: Go to http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/cominst.html for a form you can use to submit an e-mail comment through the APHIS Web site.
- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to http://www.regulations.gov and follow the instructions for locating this docket and submitting comments.